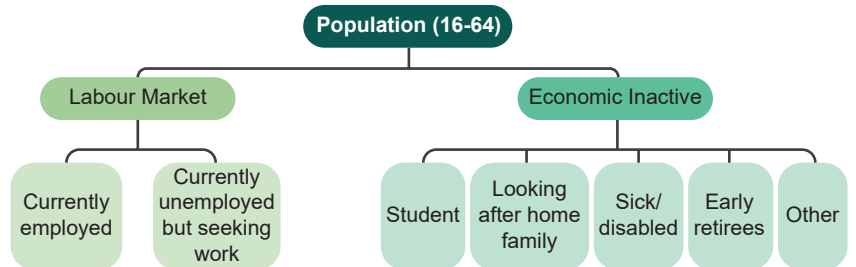


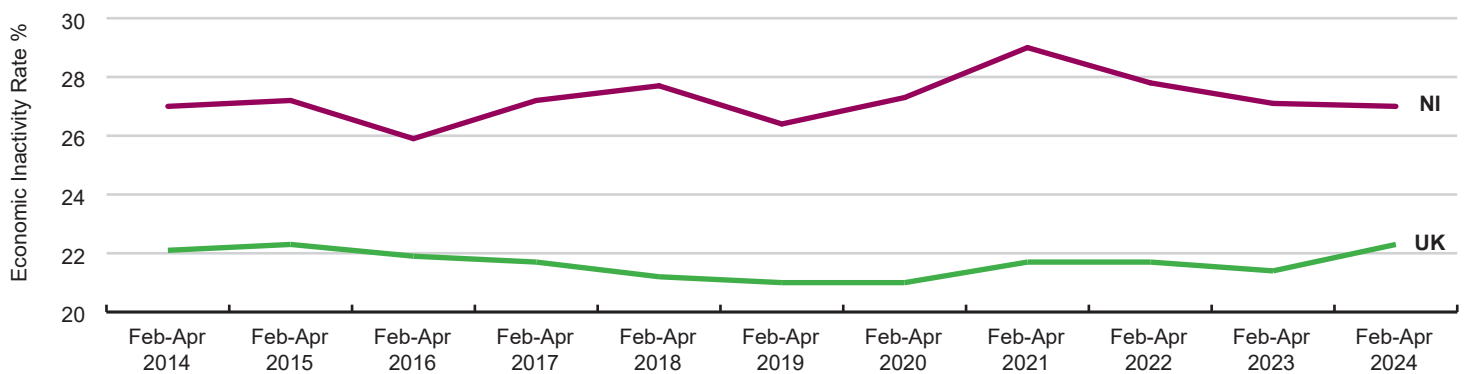
Economic Inactivity 2024

Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA and ONS (June 2024)

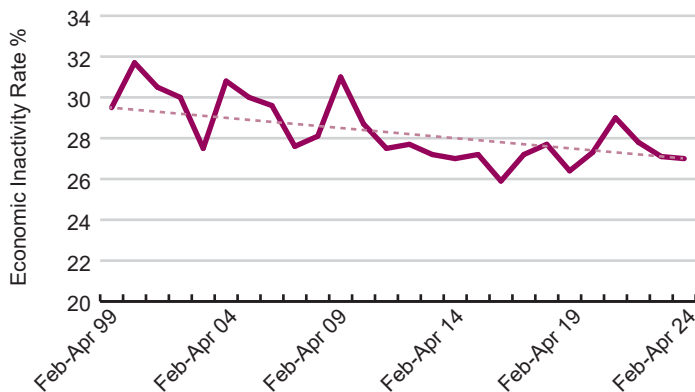
The economic inactivity rate is the percentage of the population (aged 16-64) who are not involved in the labour market and are not currently seeking employment. It includes all those who are looking after a home full-time, are sick or disabled, are students and are early retirees.



Economic Inactivity NI vs UK 2014-2024



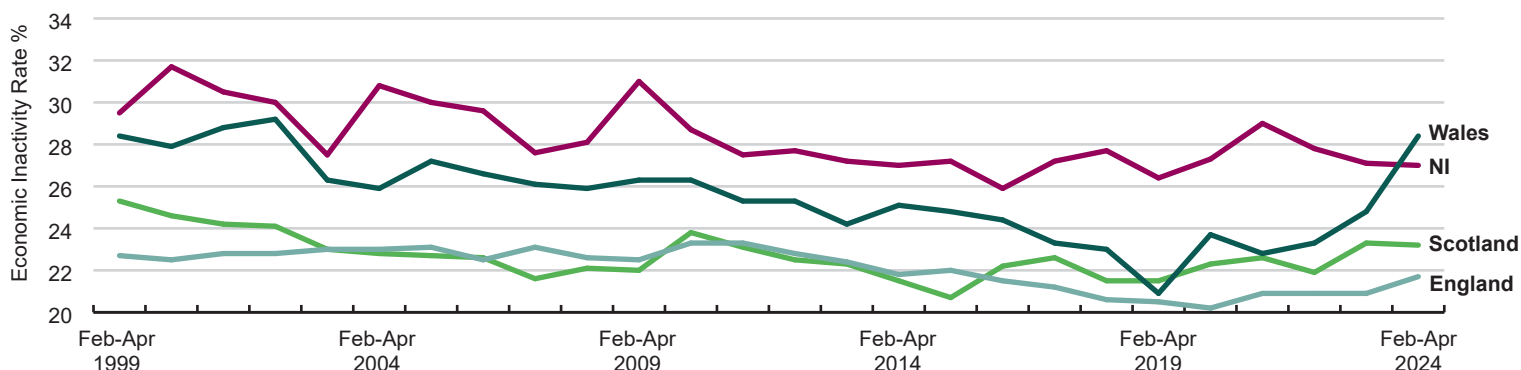
Economic Inactivity NI 1999-2024



Northern Ireland's economic inactivity rate has historically been consistently higher than the UK average. While still higher than the UK average, economic inactivity in NI has recorded a consistent downward trend over the last 25 years, falling from 29.5% in April 1999 to 27.0% in April 2024.

With the exception of Wales, which has recorded a notable increase in inactivity over the last five years, NI economic inactivity remains high relative to the UK average and higher than Scotland or England.

Economic Inactivity in UK Countries 1999-2024



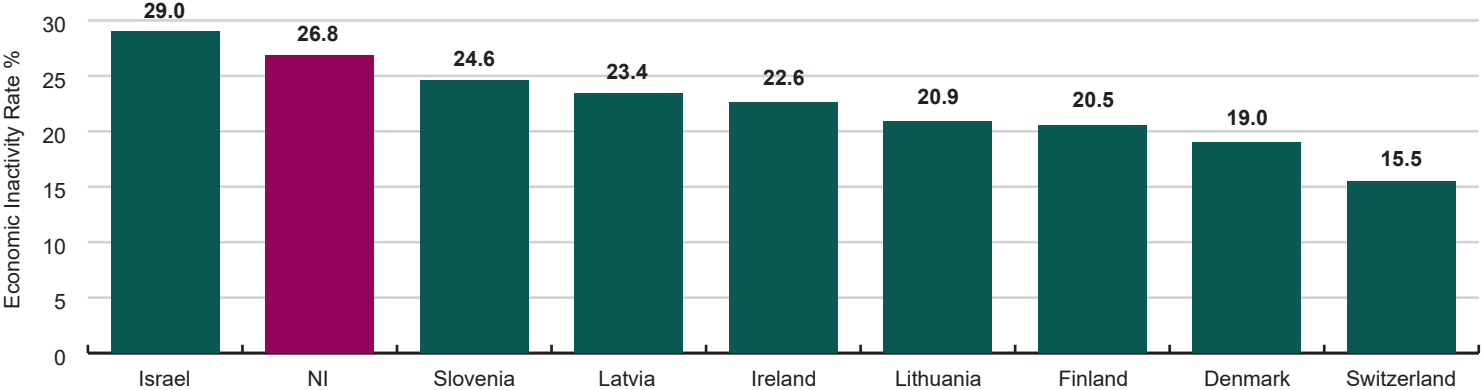
Economic Inactivity (16-64) Feb-Apr 2024



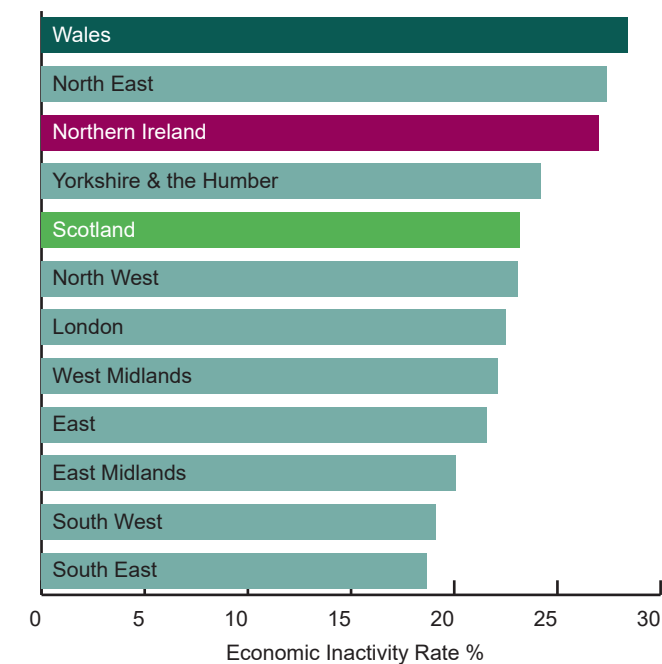
The Welsh economic inactivity rate is the highest among the four constituent UK countries.

NI has relatively high economic inactivity rate compared to other similar small advanced economies and is 19% higher than the Irish Republic (26.8% Vs 22.6%).

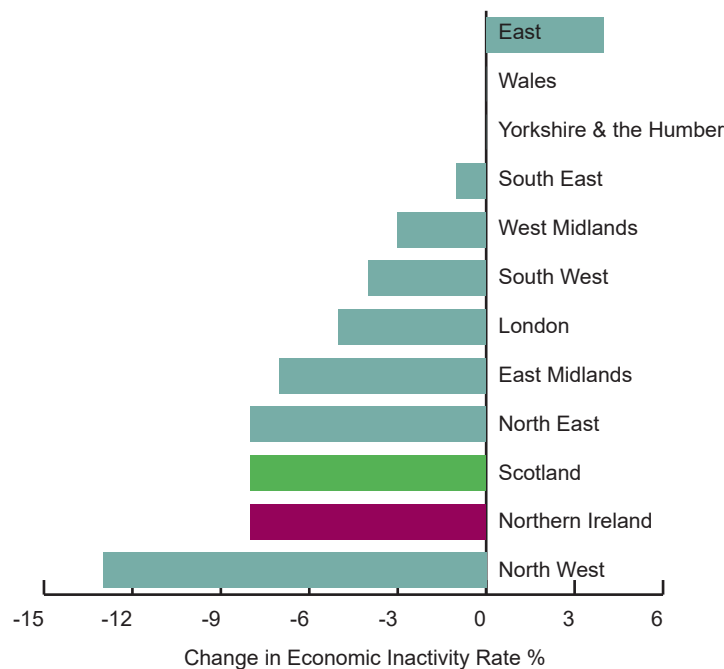
International Comparisons of Economic Inactivity Q4 2023



Economic Inactivity by Region Feb-Apr 2024



Economic Inactivity by Region Change Feb-Apr 1999 to Feb-Apr 2024



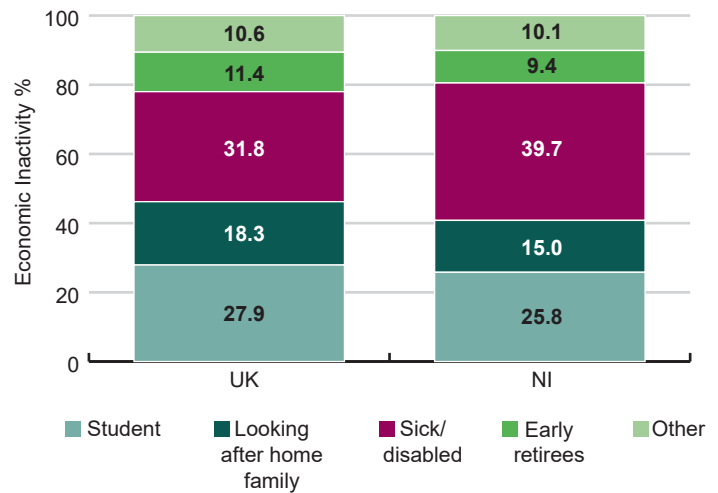
NI economic inactivity is the third highest among the 12 UK regions, almost 10 percentage points ahead of the South-East of England.

The Northern Ireland economic inactivity rate has recorded the second highest decline among the UK regions over the past 25 years.

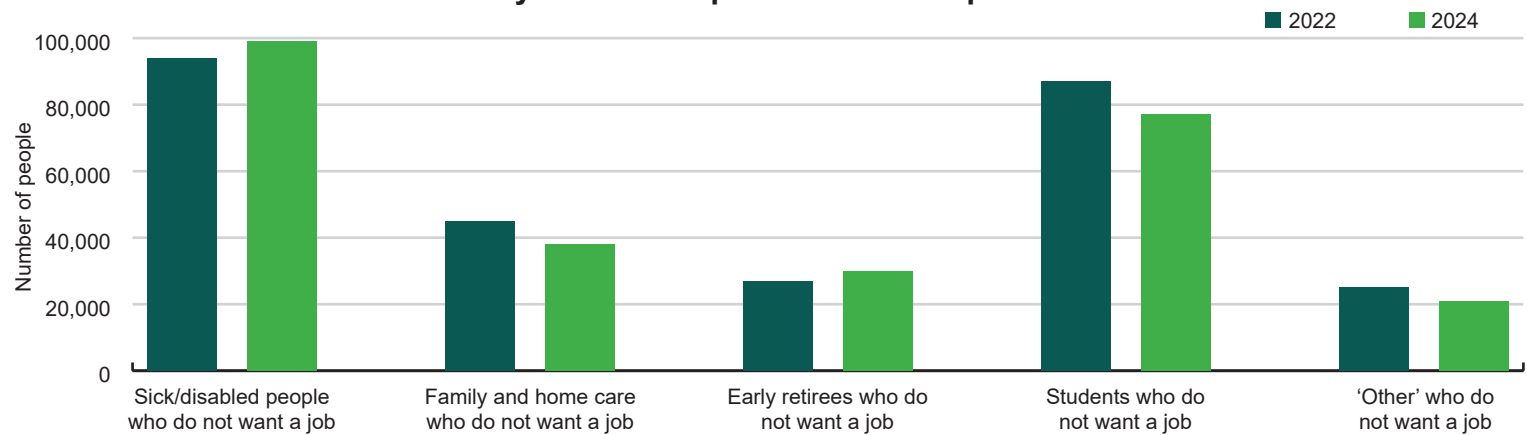
Reasons for Economic Inactivity NI vs UK Feb-Apr 2024

NI has a notably larger percentage of people out of the workforce due to sickness/disability.

- People who are economically inactive due to sickness or disability account for 39.7% (31.8% UK) of economically inactive and 10.7% (7.1% UK) of the total NI population (16-64).
- People who are economically inactive due to family and home care account for 15.0% (18.3% UK) of economically inactive and 4.0% (4.1% UK) of the NI population (16-64).
- Students account for 25.8% (27.9% UK) of economically inactive and 7.0% (6.3% UK) of the NI population (16-64).



Reasons for Economic Inactivity in NI Feb-Apr 2022 vs Feb-Apr 2024



The number of economically inactive in NI due to sickness/disability and early retirement have increased by 11.5% and 7.1% respectively over the last two years.

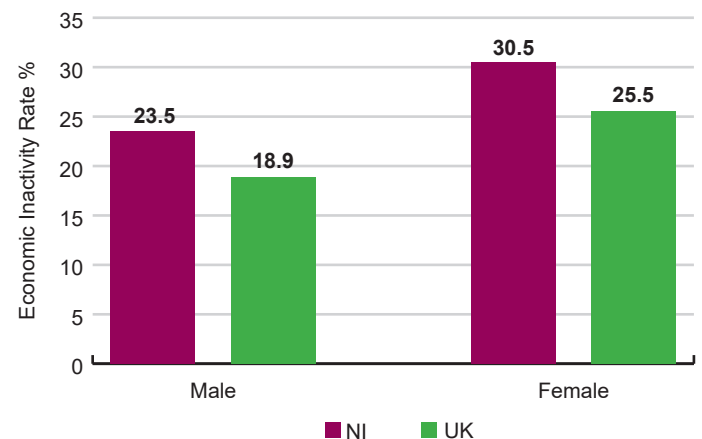
The number of economically inactive in NI due to family and home care has decreased by 16.1% and the number of economically inactive students has declined by 12.8%.

Economic Inactivity by Gender (16-64) NI vs UK Feb-Apr 2024

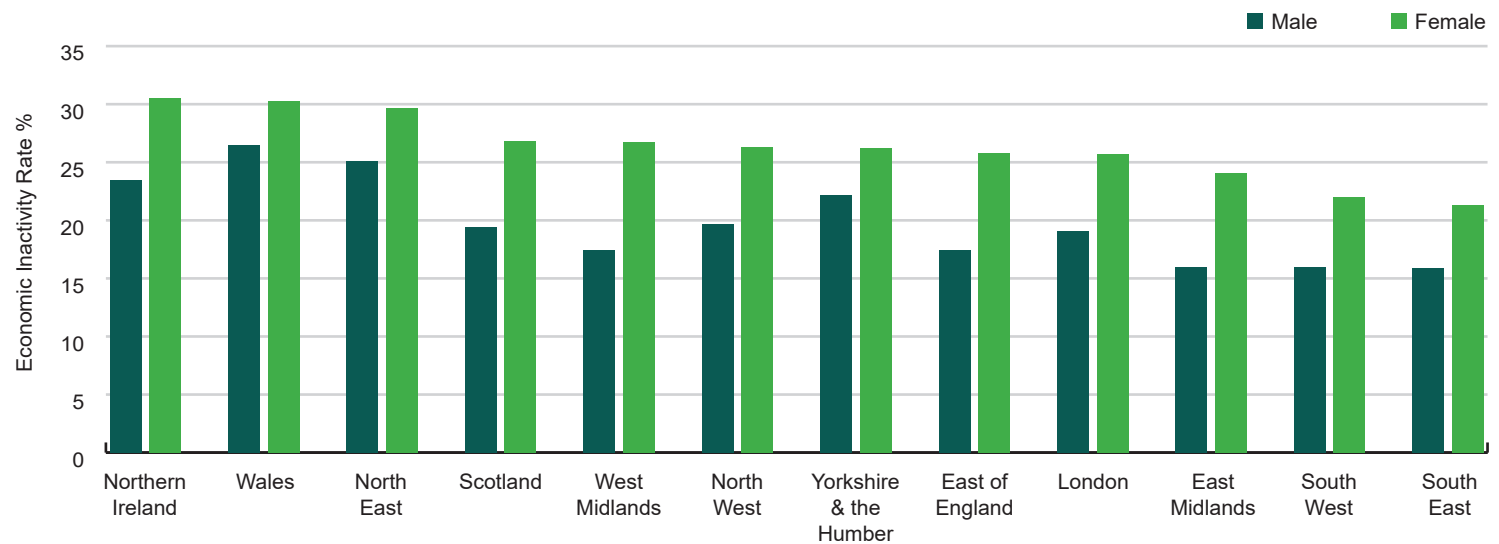
The gap between the NI and the UK economic inactivity rates differs by gender.

- The NI inactivity rate for men was 24% higher than the equivalent UK rate in Feb-Apr 2024 (23.5% Vs 18.9%).
- The NI inactivity rate for women was 20% higher than the equivalent UK rate in Feb-Apr 2024 (30.5% Vs 25.5%).

The chart below looks at inactivity by gender and region and shows that economic inactivity among women in NI is the highest among the 12 UK regions at 30.5% and 3rd highest for men at 23.5%.



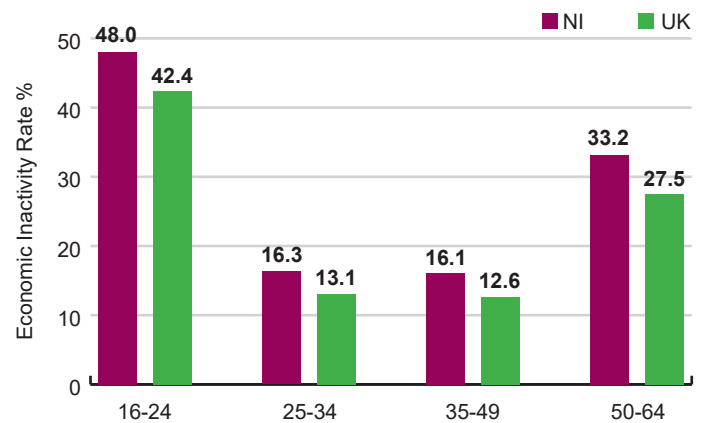
Economic Inactivity by Gender and Region Feb-Apr 2024



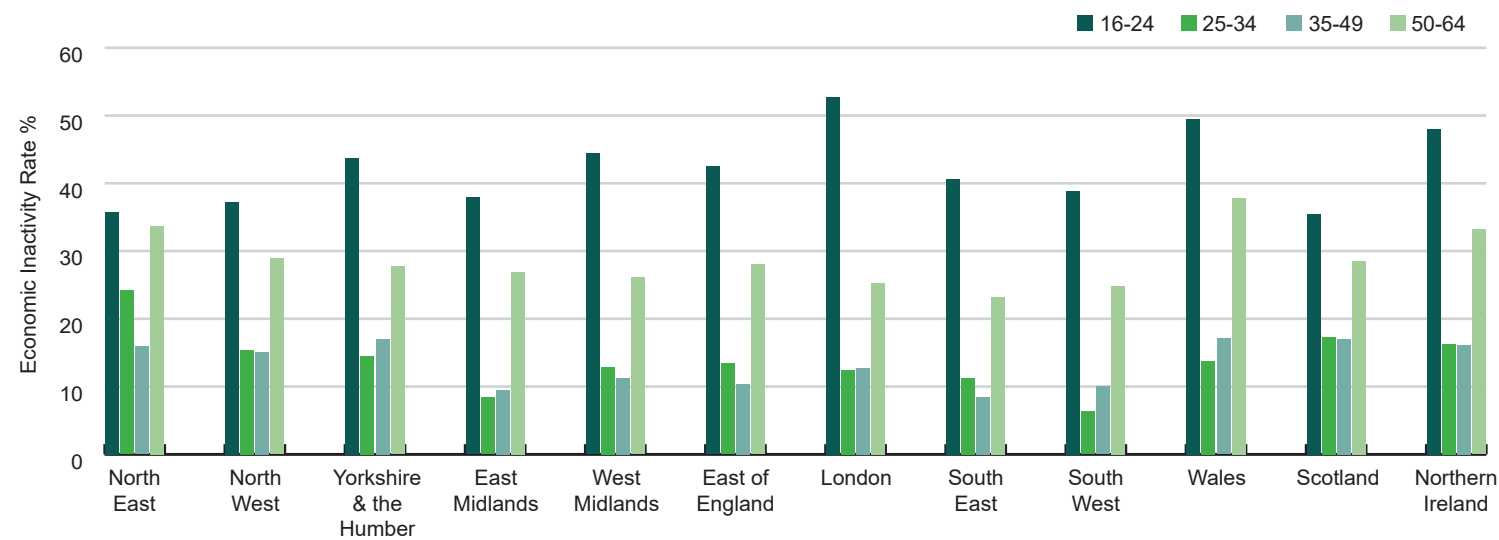
Economic Inactivity by Age NI vs UK Feb-Apr 2024

Economic inactivity in NI is notably higher than the UK average among those aged 25 to 49. While overall the NI economic inactivity rate was 21% higher than the UK rate in Feb-Apr 2024, among 25 to 34 year olds it is 24% higher and among 35 to 49 year olds it is 28% higher.

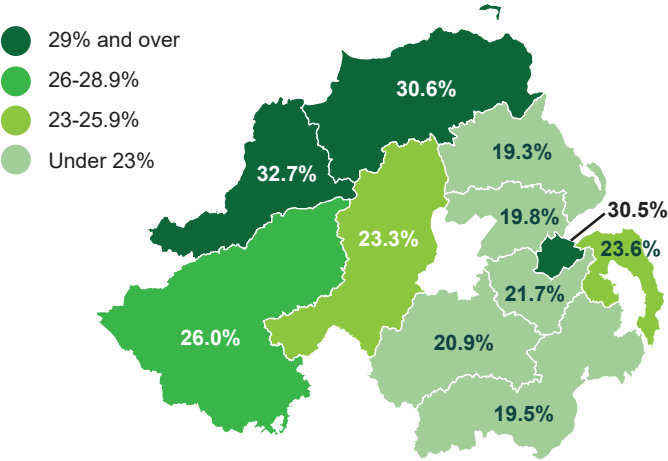
Among the 12 UK regions, NI has the third highest inactivity rate among 25 to 34 year olds, after the and the fourth highest inactivity rate among 35 to 49 year olds.



Economic Inactivity by Age and Region Feb-Apr 2024



Economic Inactivity by Council Area 2023

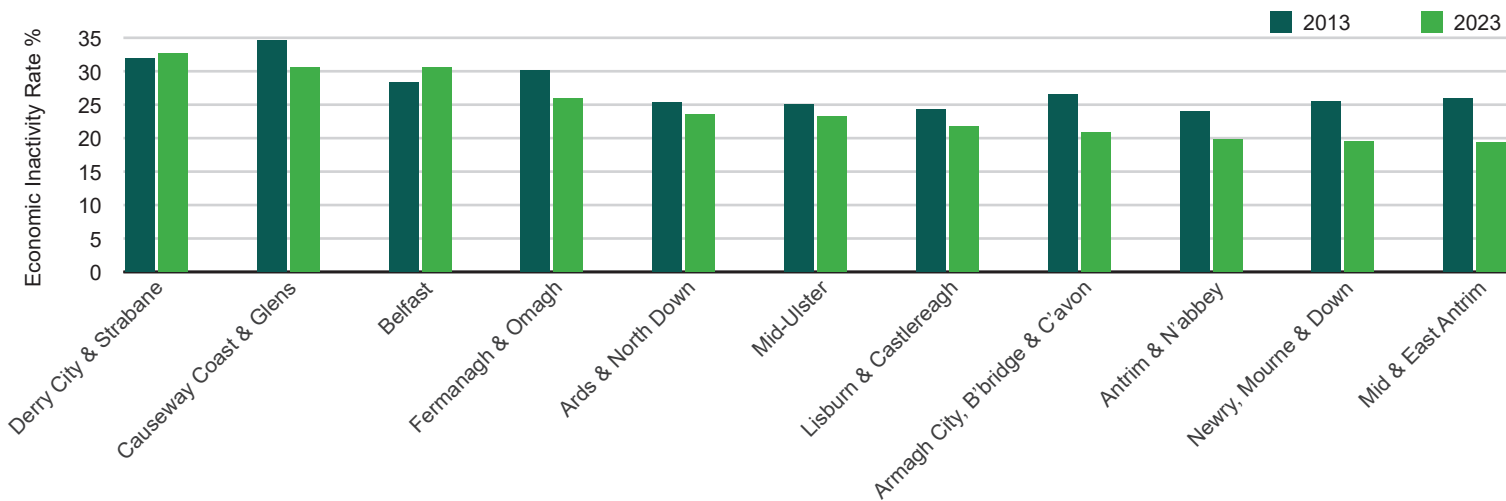


Among DCAs economic inactivity is the highest in Derry City and Strabane at 32.7% and lowest in Mid and East Antrim at 19.3%. Economic inactivity in Belfast and the two North West DCAs is above 30%.

The largest decline in economic inactivity was recorded in Mid and East Antrim which has declined from 25.9% in 2013 to 19.3% in 2023.

Among PCAs Belfast West has the highest economic inactivity at 39.0% while the lowest is Newry and Armagh at 19.5%.

Economic Inactivity Rate by Council 2013 and 2023



Economic Inactivity by Parliamentary Constituency Area 2023

